

**State of Delaware –Delaware Women's Workforce Council  
Public Policy Committee  
Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy  
Department of Human Resources**

**Committee Meeting**

Wilmington, Carvel Building, Human Resources Training Room 10th floor

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

**Attendees:**

\*Linda Barnett, Louise Cummings, Rita Paige-Phone Carling Ryan, Kimberly Reinagel-Nietubicz -phone  
Melanie Ross Levin, Carling Ryan, Shaleah Sutton, and Laura Bennett

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Linda Barnett at 11:00 am. The chairperson thanked everyone for coming.

**What is the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy Position?**

Chairperson Linda Barnett ask Melanie to talk about policies concerning the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy. The Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy can only weigh in on support of bills and give opinion about bills. The Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy is preparing for upcoming bills for next year. The policy for underage children getting married at the age of 18 was something the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy was involved in. The office is trying to weigh in on issues concerning women and girls. The office is working on putting together a list of bills and it is hard to try to weigh in on bills that come in at the last minute. Melanie works with Representative Longhurst to develop bills or the office does it on their own. The chairperson asked Melanie if she could share bills that will go on floor with the policy committee. Melanie would have to ask for permission to share the bills with the committee. There are three to four bills that are put out per session.

**What should the public policy platform of our Council be? What public policy do we want to support?**

The Public Policy committee should try to figure out how to structure meetings and how to deal with policies. The chairperson asked, "Will the workforce council focus on workforce issues only and should the policy committee be dealing with workforce issues"? The Women's Workforce Council should have a platform for workforce issues and some of those issues could lead to broader discussions. The public policy committee should make a platform for support of bills. The public policy committee members should send their suggestions of what they think should go into the platform to Linda by October 19, 2018. Melanie and Carling to also send information to Linda by that date. Melanie will look at suggestions given to Linda and proposing legislative measures after platform is formed.

**Should we collaborate with the Commission for Women; should this be a joint Public Policy Committee for our Council and the Commission?**

Melanie will ask if The Women's Workforce Council and the Women's Commission can join with each other or overlap on bills that are brought to the floor. The Workforce Council can look at workforce issues and decide what issues to deal with. The Workforce Council can deal with such issues as gender equality,

The chairperson would like to coordinate with other advocacy groups and women organizations. Women organizations are small and they usually combine with other organizations. At this present time, there is not a specific place that these organizations meet. Melanie will help with getting other organization involved in workplace issues. The Women's Workforce Council and the Women's Commission can come together as a think tank on issues.

The workforce Council can talk to anyone, but the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy has to be inclusive in who they approach. A list has to be compiled to get people together, identifying who will host meetings and who will be on comprehensive list to support the committee. Carling and Melanie to check dates to try to get groups together at least two to three times a year.

**How actively do we advance our public policy principles?**

Have the women and girls organizations to strategized ideas to be put forth before the Public Policy Committee. Have trainings and have organizations learn to have letters prepared for upcoming bills. The chair tabled discussion and it will be discussed with the whole Workforce Council. Melanie to talk to Women [s Commission about workforce legislative issues.

**What approaches/methods/techniques do we employ?**

How to decide to deal with bills in legislation. It is in the by-laws that a public meeting is needed in order to support bills. Melanie to talk to attorney to see if there is a platform that is already

Next meeting: November 15, 16.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

**Information that Melanie needs to give to Public Policy Committee**

Melanie and Carling to give Linda Information about platform on October 19, 2018 after Melanie talks to attorney's to see if there is a platform available that the Public Policy committee can use.

Melanie to ask attorney's if the Public Policy Committee and the Women's Commission can work together on policies that overlap the committee and the commission.

Melanie to find out if she has permission to share bills that come out of legislation with the Public Policy committee.

Melanie will look at suggestions given to Linda about platform.

Melanie to help with getting other organizations to be involved with the Public Policy committee.

Carling and Melanie to figure out dates for meeting with other women groups.  
The committee will pick two or three of the suggestions for the platform.